Theo: Sem'y: Columbia S.C. Feb 26th. 1840.

The Society of Missionary Inquiry of Theo: Sem'y at Columbia to the Society of Inquiry of Theol: Sem'y at Princeton. N. J. —

Dear Brethren — By a vote passed at a late meeting of our society, the Corresponding Secretary was directed to address to you a letter upon those topics in which we feel a common interest. Reference to a file of old letters shows that in former days, constant intercourse was maintained between the Societies of our two Institutions. We know not why a correspondence so interesting & profitable — if we may judge from letters in our possession — has ever been discontinued: most probably by the departure of those who were engaged in it, & by the transference of this with all other business into the hands of successors. Certainly, Brethren, no reasons need be presented in favor of such intercommunication. We receive our commission to fight the Lord's battles from the same "Captain of our Salvation," — We are animated by the same promises and awed by the same warnings. We are but divisions of a great army and advance to the same conquests — our labor is one: our reward is one: & we trust our hearts are one. Love to all the Saints, is frequently mentioned in Scripture as the sign & evidence of a Regenerate heart: & dearly should those love one another who confess that they are but pilgrims & strangers here below and who seek a better country even an heavenly." If this be true of all those indiscriminately who wear the badge of Xtian profession, with what emphasis should it be said of us, Brethren, chosen, we trust, of God as was Aaron, to be "priests of the most High God," "Behold how they love one another!" And though we should never see each other face to face, still the same affection may subsist which should be found between members of the great "family in Heaven and Earth," who own a common Father. — If such be the cordial feeling which should pervade and which, we are persuaded, you will fully reciprocate — no persuasion is necessary to induce that interchange of sentiment by which this feeling may be developed & strengthened- But to have done with preface—

We think, Brethren, it must be apparent to the most hasty observer of the times, that the age in which we live is one of critical interest. Not to allude to many of its characteristic features, we will confine our view to the Missionary operations of the day. Hitherto, until within the last twenty or thirty years, the church of Xt has been asleep as to their duty of evangelizing the Heathen: but the spell of that slumber has been broken- extensive organizations have been formed- many posts have been seized upon Heathen ground, as radiant points whence to diffuse the Gospel's light- hundreds of Missionaries are faithfully laboring in the field; and as the reward of their labor, the promise seems near its fulfilment (at least in some portions of the world) "a nation shall be born in a day." Among the favorable indications we should not forget to mention the fact that our own Church has begun to recognize its ecclesiastical obligations to fulfill the Savior's last command; which seems to promise, with the blessing of God added thereto, increase of vigor & effort in the missionary cause. All this has accrued from the pious labors of our "Fathers" many of whom remain unto this present" awaiting their call home with gladdened hearts like Simeon of old. Immense obligations devolve upon us, dear Brethren, as those who are to some extent responsible for the future prosperity of Zion. Should we fail to catch the mantle of our Fathers, the Church will flag in her missionary zeal; a terrible reaction will ensue at home; and abroad deserted stations, disbanded schools & abandoned churches will be the monuments of a moral ruin more fearful than the natural desolations spoken of in olden prophecy & confirmed with awful truth by the narratives of modern travellers. Further than this- we are of opinion the present day is so preeminently a crisis in the history of Missions, that one Missionary sent out now may reasonably expect to accomplish more real good than any five men who shall go abroad 50 years hence.—

Perhaps this is not so apparent in respect to the world abroad, as the world at home: every delegate of the Church who now finds his way across the waters rivets & clinches the missionary zeal of the Church at home - and in so far tends to render more permanent & abiding those efforts which at present all must grieve to find so fluctuating & fitful. We might run this thought out still further and show how the embarkation of the one missionary in our day tends to secure the embarkation of the five 50 years hence. But our diminishing paper shows our interview must be short - As we have not room to indulge in wiredrawn reflections, it will suffice to propound the inquiry. Do you not coincide with us, dear Brethren, in opinion that we are wofully recreant to our high trust if we are not deeply imbued with the missionary spirit of our Master? And shall we not strive to cherish this spirit in the breasts one of another. Perhaps while the ~~Hum~~ fire smoulders on our altar it may blaze brightly upon yours - at any rate, "our hearts" will "burn within us while we talk together by the way" -

We have but little to communicate in the way of news. One of the class last graduated (which was very small) has received his designation from the Assembly's Board. He lately parted from us on his way to a northern port, whence he will embark for his station (Singapore) to occupy the post where our late and lamented Bro Mitchell had scarcely watched before he died - Of the general interest which prevails among us, we can say but little. It would be strange if we did not all feel - We are very few in number, and the destitution around us calls so loudly for labourers, as in some degree to divert attention. But we are assured there is more than one who, if duty could be clearly made known, would say with Paul "unto me is this grace given that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Ct."

And now Brethren, having given this very summary view of our state & feelings, will you suffer us to give the challenge of "your watchman & ask" "what the signs of promise are, among you? Who have lately gone out from you, warm with zeal & wafted by your prayers, to the land of the benighted? Who among you are ready to respond to the Prophet's summons, "Here am I, send me"? And while the scoffing world derides the Enterprize as a mad crusade, do you find your own zeal mild yet ardent, firm yet not fanatical? Oh what a shame, if the sons of the Church and picked soldiers as we are, we should be cowed & browbeaten before the jeers of the impious! Every thing at home tends to encourage the hearts of those who are engaged in behalf of the Heathen — and in the unsettled state of Pagan countries and in the yielding opposition of those which are encircled by a wall of prejudice and Exclusiveness, we may clearly see that "the Breaker has gone before" — and he "will overturn & overturn & overturn, until he, whose right it is, shall come." —

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Brethren, we extend to you the right hand of fellowship and of Christian intercourse — And to God & his grace we commend you — Amen —

In behalf of Soc: of Miss: Inq: Theol: Sem: Columbia —
B M Palmer. Cor: Secy —